



# Kentucky AGRICULTURAL News

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January 2003  
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## **CPH-45 sellers prosper**

Kentucky's CPH-45 sales will start up again with an auction Jan. 7 in Guthrie. ... [more](#)

## **Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith**

Another session of the Kentucky General Assembly is coming up, and again Kentucky farmers and agri-businesses must act to maintain Kentucky's investment of tobacco settlement dollars into the state's agriculture industry. ... [more](#)

## **Coming up**

[UK wheat conference](#)

[2003 Fruit and Vegetable Conference](#)

[UK poultry course](#)

[Kentucky dairy summit](#)

[UK winter lambing school](#)

[Export Financing for Agricultural Producers Conference](#)

[National Farm Machinery Show](#)

[Aquaculture America](#)

[Ohio River Valley Farm Marketing Conference](#)

[Kentucky Women in Agriculture Conference](#)

[Kentucky Crafted: The Market](#)

[Kentucky Beef Expo](#)

[Click here for Calendar of Events](#)

## **Auctions survive--for how long?**

Buyers look over bales of tobacco at Big Burley No. 2 Warehouse in Lexington on opening day of the tobacco auction season Nov. 18. ... [more](#)

## **Every farm counts in Agriculture Census**

Farm operators in Kentucky and across America are participating in the 2002 Census of Agriculture, the nation's largest, most detailed statistical portrait of U.S. agriculture. ... [more](#)

## **Russians talk trade in Kentucky**

A delegation of Russian horse and cattle breeders, government officials and a racetrack director visited the Bluegrass in October on a reverse trade mission to meet Kentucky agriculture leaders. ... [more](#)

## **Students raise miniature barn, ag awareness**

Connie Crask would never have thought to use the raising of a miniature 1860s barn to teach

social studies and history. ... [more](#)

### **Spencer teacher earns honor**

A Spencer County elementary teacher who uses agriculture as a teaching tool in her classroom has been honored by the Milken Family Foundation. ... [more](#)

### **'Kentucky Fresh' subject of poster, essay contest**

Kentucky students in grades 1 through 8 are invited to compete in Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith's annual Kentucky Ag Day Poster and Essay Contest. ... [more](#)

### **Smith, other Kentuckians honored at 75th FFA Convention**

Kentuckians took home 89 American FFA Degrees during the 75th National FFA Convention Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in Louisville. ... [more](#)

### **City team's victory was a Locke**

Deb Locke celebrates after roping the golden steer in the Wing Tip Rodeo during the Farm-City Luncheon Nov. 15 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. ... [more](#)

### **513 equine, 67 humans contract West Nile in '02**

The snow and subsequent freezing conditions of early December brought the threat of West Nile Virus in Kentucky to an end for 2002 ... [more](#)

### **Brother's death brings home dangers of agriculture**

John Eric Williams was a popular figure in Bourbon County and a devoted family man who lived with and cared for his 96-year-old grandmoter. ... [more](#)

### **Equine interests discuss future**

Leaders of Kentucky's equine industry met with Commissioner Billy Ray Smith on Nov. 18 to discuss how to maintain their industry as one of the leading components of Kentucky agriculture ... [more](#)

### **Produce sales to schools through KDA up 69 percent**

A Kentucky Department of Agriculture program that helps farmers sell fresh produce directly to schools is enjoying increased popularity. ... [more](#)

### **Scott Hams wins national competition**

Leslie and June Scott, owners of Scott Hams of Greenville, accept an award for grand champion ... [more](#)

### **KFB honors Commissioner**

Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith receives Kentucky Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award ... [more](#)

### **\$1,000 in prizes offered in KDA photo contest**

You could win up to \$500 if you have a photo showing the best of Kentucky farm life. ... [more](#)





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Building Partnerships for Agriculture's Future

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## Commissioner Farmer takes oath of office as Kentucky's new agriculture chief



*Richie Farmer takes the oath of office on Jan. 5 as Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Farmer's wife, Rebecca, (center) holds the Bible.*

[Bio](#)

[Coverage in the Courier-Journal...](#)

## Commissioner Farmer announces plans to reorganize the department and names management team...[more](#)



[Poster, essay contest for Kentucky  
classrooms...details](#)

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**Latest updates about  
"Mad Cow" case**

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**[Kentucky Agricultural News](#)**

[See the latest, online edition of the  
department's quarterly newspaper](#)

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**[Ag stats book available](#)**

[Go to the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics  
Service site to view the book...click here](#)

[News release about the book...](#)

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**Commissioner Farmer's administration is in the process of updating all staff and contact information.**

**Please check back with us soon.**



# Kentucky Department of Agriculture Forms Library

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view these forms. If you don't have the Reader, you can click on the icon below to download your free copy.

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  - [Participation Request Form](#) (12K pdf)
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- **Division of Food Distribution**
  - KY-FD-2 [Designated Personnel for Food Alert/Emergency Feeding](#) 34K pdf
  - KY-FD-4 [Request for Backhaul Authorization](#) 22K pdf
  - KY-FD-4 [Change in Administrator/Food Services Director During Contract Year](#) 6K pdf
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  - KY-FD-8 [Temperature Recording Chart](#) 44K pdf
  - KY-FD-7 [Transfer of Commodities](#) 25K pdf
- **Division Agriculture and Environmental Education**
  - [Teacher Training Workshop Application](#) (6K pdf)
- **Office of Agricultural Marketing & Product Promotion**
  - [Kentucky Fresh/Proud Application](#)
  - [Organic Program](#)
  - [Farmers' Market Program](#)
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  - [Structural Pest Control Applicator and Manager License Application](#) (6K pdf)
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- **Division of Regulation and Inspection**

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- **Division of Show and Fair Promotion**

- [2002 Fair Events Form](#) (8K pdf)
- [Livestock Tally Sheet](#) (6K pdf)
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- [Open Class Sheep Show](#) (5K pdf)
- [Open Class Dairy/Beef Show](#) (8K pdf)
- [Initial Request for State Aid](#) (8K pdf)
- [Form A](#) Financial Statement and Record of Entries (9K pdf)
- [Form B](#) Statement of Cost of Awards in Approved Classes (4K pdf)
- [Request for State Aid for the Building Program](#) (5K pdf)
- [Financial Report of the Building Program](#) (4K pdf)



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**Commissioner Farmer's administration is in the process of updating all staff and contact information.**

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KDA



# Office for Agricultural Marketing & Product Promotion

## Welcome to the Office of Agricultural Marketing & Product Promotion

This office assists farmers, agricultural businesses, and commodity groups to promote and market their products by expanding existing markets, as well as by developing domestic and international markets. All the marketing divisions are located at the address and phone below.

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Aquaculture



Value-Added Foods



Show & Fair  
Promotion



Value-Added Wood



International  
Marketing



Livestock  
Poultry & Forage

100 Fair Oaks Lane, 5th Floor  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Office Phone: 502-564-4983  
Office FAX: 502-564-0303



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Updated January 7, 2004 12:15 PM

KDA



# Kentucky Department of Agriculture News & Events

## Welcome to the News & Events Page

Here are some of the latest news stories from Commissioner Richie Farmer and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. For further information concerning these and other press releases, please contact Scott Jennings, Director of Communications, by [e-mail](#) or by phone at 502-564-5126.








[More Ag News](#)

Items listed with this graphic  contain audio (.wav) files with additional information.

- (1/5/04) Commissioner Farmer to reorganize KDA, [names management team](#)
- (12/15/03) [Recycling Program](#) Surpasses 900,000 Pounds
- (12/11/03) Equine [West Nile Cases in Ky. Plummeted](#) in 2003
- (12/5/03) [Louisville Slugger](#) Joins Heavy Hitters
- (12/4/03) Ky. Freshwater [Shrimp Available During Holidays](#)
- (11/26/03) [Garden Centers](#) Display Kentucky Fresh Products
- (11/26/03) [Kentucky Fresh Christmas Trees](#) Now Available
- (11/17/03) [Web Relaunch](#) Makes Holiday Shoppers Ky. Proud
- (11/5/03) KDA Hay Testing Program Busy, at a [Minimal Cost](#)
- (10/27/03) New Mobile Simulator Demonstrates [Tractor Safety](#)
- (10/24/03) New Ky. [Ag Statistics Book Available](#) to Public
- (10/24/03) [Johne's Testing Now Free](#) to Producers
- (10/22/03) [Groceries promote Kentucky Fresh](#) products
- (10/14/03) [Summit](#) to Look at Problems Facing Producers
- (10/7/03) KDA Veterinarian Trained in [Foreign Animal Diseases](#)
- (9/25/03) [EKU Field Day](#) Focuses on Ag Research, Services
- (9/10/03) Mock Rescue Shows Importance of [Farm Safety](#)
- (9/10/03) Fall Freshwater [Shrimp Harvest Under Way](#)
- (9/9/03) Project to Benefit [Ky. Shrimp Farmers, Co-op](#)
- (9/8/03) KDA Will Participate in [Mexican Livestock Expo](#)
- (9/4/03) New Agriculture and Environmental Center Highlights [Murray State Field Day](#)
- (8/28/03) [Equine West Nile Cases](#) Behind Last Year's Pace
- (8/25/03) [Ginseng Sales](#) Open Soon
- (8/21/03) [\\$250,000 Bid](#) Shatters Ham Auction Record
- (8/7/03) New KDA Staffer to Work with [Western Ky. Youth](#)
- (8/7/03) Book is All About ['Pride of Kentucky'](#)
- (7/25/03) Ag Department Wins [International Trade Award](#)
- (7/24/03) Youth to Benefit from [New Country Ham Auction](#)
- (7/17/03) [Conservation Association Honors Commissioner](#) Smith
- (7/11/03) Nationwide Contest Presents [Opportunities for Ag Cooperatives, Producer Groups](#)



- (7/8/03) [First South Central Kentucky Field Day](#) July 24
- (7/7/03) KDA Hires Versaille Vet for [Homeland Security](#)
- (7/7/03) Winners Chosen in Popular [KDA Photo Contest](#)
- (7/1/03) [More Young People](#) Taking Advantage of Expos
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- (6/30/03) KDA Workshops Emphasize [Ag in Education](#)
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- (6/11/03) KDA Nominee Receives [World Trade Success Award](#)
- (6/6/03) Proposed Plate Promoting [Pet Population Control](#) Quickly Becomes Reality
- (6/5/03) [Ky. Food Products, Agri-Tourism](#) Highlight Bike Rally
- (6/5/03) Too Much Rain May Equal [More Farm Accidents](#)
- (6/2/03) Ky. Producers Celebrate [Dairy Industry](#) in June
- (5/29/03) [First Equine West Nile Case](#) of 2003 Confirmed
- (5/28/03) KDA Program Helps Farmers [Measure Forage Value](#)
- (5/27/03) [Dairy Program](#) Explained at Meetings
- (5/27/03) Information Available for [Worm Farmers](#)
- (5/22/03) KDA's [Mosquito Spraying Schedule](#) On the Web
- (5/19/03) [Ginseng Meeting](#) May 21 in Lexington
- (5/19/03) It's the Law: [Pesticide Applicators Must Be Licensed](#)
- (5/16/03) [Ag Commissioner Race](#) Important to Everyone
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- (4/30/03) Smith: Watch for [Wild Cherry Trees in Pastures](#)
- (4/30/03) May 31 Deadline Approaches for [Photo Contest](#)
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- (4/15/03) Kentucky [Egg Inspectors Making the Grade](#)
- (4/10/03) KDA Program Expands to Meet [Nutritional Needs](#)
- (4/3/03) [KDA: Vaccinate horses against West Nile Virus](#)
- (4/3/03) [Bluegrass chefs can learn at aquaculture workshop](#)
- (4/3/03) [Protect anhydrous from thieves](#)
- (4/2/03) PAAC Wants [More Catfish Producers](#)
- (4/2/03) KDA Provides [Pest Control Training](#) for Metro Staff
- (4/1/03) Buyers Find Best of Breeds at [Dairy Show, Sale](#)
- (4/1/03) Grant to Benefit Ky. [Seniors, Farmers' Markets](#)
- (3/27/03) [Funds Available](#) to Aid in Development of New Horticulture Markets
- (3/26/03) Smith Urges Farmers to [Tighten Security](#) 
- (3/19/03) [Dairy Industry](#) in Spotlight at National Show, Sale
- (3/18/03) [Ag Day](#) Salutes Kentucky Fresh Foods
- (3/5/03) Annual Kentucky [Beef Expo Sales Successful](#)
- (2/27/03) State Ag Department Urges Farmers to [Complete Census](#)
- (2/27/03) [Bio-Security](#) Hot Topic at Farm Safety Symposium
- (2/21/03) Commissioner Issues [Farm Advisory](#) 
- (2/21/03) [Federal Disaster Relief](#) to Aid Kentucky Farmers

- (2/19/03) Show Helps Put [Kentucky Products in Spotlight](#)
- (2/18/03) Promotional [Cost-Share Funds Available](#) to State Horticulture Groups
- (2/13/03) [More Catfish](#) Jumping into Kroger Stores
- (2/11/03) First Ky. Product From \$7M Deal [Bound for Cuba](#)
- (2/10/03) [Agri-Tourism Council](#) Meets For First Time
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- (1/31/03) [Sheep, Goat Tel-O-Auction](#) Slated for Feb. 6
- (1/29/03) Entrepreneurs, Ag Leaders Will Show Farmers How to [Increase Their Profits](#)
- (1/28/03) School Helps [Prepare Co-ops for Success](#)
- (1/27/03) Ky. to Host [National Aquaculture Conference](#)
- (1/24/03) [New Guide](#) Offers Farmers Understanding of Kentucky Environmental Laws
- (1/22/03) One-Day Conference Focuses on [Finances of Agricultural Exporting](#)
- (1/13/03) KSU Program Focuses on [Organic Agriculture](#)
- (1/9/03) KDA Working to Increase [Trade with Mexico](#)
- (1/7/03) [Poster, Essay Contest](#) Focuses on Kentucky Fresh
- (1/6/03) [Dairy Industry's Future](#) Topic of Summit
- (12/30/02) [\\$1,000 in Prizes](#) Offered in Farm Photo Contest 
- (12/26/02) Farmers Urged to [Answer Census Mailings](#)
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- (11/25/02) [Kentucky-Grown Christmas Trees](#) Now Available
- (11/18/02) New Landscape [Plant Guide Now Online](#)
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- (10/22/02) Smith, NASDA Denounce [Grain Warehouse Rule](#)
- (10/8/02) October is [National Cooperative Month](#)
- (10/2/02) Kentucky Hosts [National Ag Conference](#)
- (10/1/02) Kentucky, Cuba Complete [\\$7 Million Trade Pact](#)
- (10/1/02) [Goat Show and Sale Oct. 5](#) in Harrodsburg
- (9/27/02) [Smith, Castro Discuss Trade](#) at Exhibition
- (9/26/02) KDA Opening Doors to [Food Exports to Cuba](#)
- (9/24/02) [339 Kentucky Equine Now Confirmed](#) with West Nile
- (9/24/02) KDA Leads Delegation on [Historic Cuba Trip](#)
- (9/20/02) Kentucky Equine [West Nile Virus Cases Increase by 46](#)
- (9/19/02) Confirmed Equine [West Nile Cases in Ky. Up to 282](#)
- (9/18/02) [15 Added to List](#) of Kentucky Equine with West Nile
- (9/18/02) [New Honeybee Pest](#) Discovered in Kentucky
- (9/17/02) Kentucky Equine With West Nile [Up To 248](#)
- (9/13/02) [34 Added](#) to List of Kentucky Equine Positives
- (9/13/02) [Caution Urged on State Roads](#) During Harvest 
- (9/12/02) Kentucky [Equine Now Positive for West Nile](#) Hits 197
- (9/12/02) Governor Signs [Farm Safety Week Proclamation](#)
- (9/11/02) 185 Kentucky Equine Now [Positive for West Nile](#)

- (9/9/02) [Migrant Housing Facility](#) To Be Dedicated
- (9/9/02) [Goat and Lamb Tel-O-Auction](#) Gets Enthusiastic Response
- (9/9/02) [23 Added](#) to List of Equine West Nile Positives
- (9/6/02) West Nile Count in Kentucky Equine [Climbs to 150](#)
- (9/5/02) [133 Cases of West Nile Confirmed](#) in Kentucky Equine
- (9/3/02) West Nile Confirmed in [112 Kentucky Equine](#)
- (9/3/02) [Freshwater Shrimp Available](#) from Kentucky Farms
- (8/30/02) [89 Ky. Equine Confirmed](#) with West Nile Virus
- (8/30/02) KDA Supports [Animal Control Legislation](#)
- (8/29/02) [New Confirmations](#) Bring Equine West Nile Cases to 69
- (8/28/02) New Confirmations [Increase Equine West Nile Cases](#) to 56
- (8/26/02) Six More Cases of Equine [West Nile in Ky. Confirmed](#)
- (8/26/02) Kentucky Producers Invited to [Mexican Livestock Show](#)
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- (8/8/02) [Evans Switches](#) From Tobacco to Kentucky Fresh
- (8/7/02) [Seedless Watermelons](#) Sweeten Return to School
- (8/6/02) 'Kentucky Fresh' Featured on KDA Web Site 
- (8/5/02) Bowling Green [Livestock Show Sets Record](#)
- (8/5/02) [WKU Field Day](#) to Spotlight Crop Production, Soil Management
- (8/1/02) Cuban Event an [Opportunity for Ky. Food Companies](#)



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## CPH-45 sellers prosper

### More sales set for winter '03

Kentucky's CPH-45 sales will start up again with an auction Jan. 7 in Guthrie. In all, 14 sales are scheduled through March 28 for the program, in which participating producers raise their calves under a standardized health management program and sell them together to provide buyers the numbers and characteristics they're looking for.

"This program is great for small producers who are willing to go the extra mile to give the buyers what they want," Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith said. "The added value of the calves can help keep small farmers in business."

In 19 CPH-45 (Certified Preconditioned for Health) sales held last fall, steers that weighed 600-699 pounds brought an average of \$9 per hundredweight more than comparable steers sold in conventional auctions during the same week as reported in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's [market report](#), KDA livestock marketing specialist Tim Dietrich said. The difference ranged as high as \$13.49 for steers weighing 400-499 pounds that were sold in Lexington on Dec. 13.

Some 22,000 head went through the ring in the fall CPH-45 sales compared with 28,000 head for the entire 2001-2002 market season. This season's total is expected to approach 50,000 head, Dietrich said.

In order for calves to qualify for CPH-45 sales, they must be owned by the producer for at least 60 days and weaned a minimum of 45 days before selling. They must be trained to eat from a bunk and drink water from a trough. All calves must be dehorned and healed and bulls must be castrated and healed. Calves must be dewormed and vaccinated for Clostridia (7-way) and vaccinated and boosted for IBR, PI3, BVD, and BRSV.

The program helps buyers find similar, healthy calves that they can buy in tractor-trailer lots in Kentucky and offers producers an opportunity to sell their calves at a premium.

The sales are a cooperative effort between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the [University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service](#), the [Kentucky Cattlemen's Association](#), local cattlemen's associations and the stockyards.

A calendar of CPH-45 sales, including weaning and vaccination deadlines, is available on the Web at [www.uky.edu/Projects/BeefIRM/weaningvaccination.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Projects/BeefIRM/weaningvaccination.htm).

For more information on CPH-45 sales, contact Tim Dietrich by phone at (502) 564-4896 or by e-mail at [tim.dietrich@kyagr.com](mailto:tim.dietrich@kyagr.com).





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## State must stay the course with ag investment

***Billy Ray Smith, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner***



Another session of the Kentucky General Assembly is coming up, and again Kentucky farmers and agri-businesses must act to maintain Kentucky's investment of tobacco settlement dollars into the state's agriculture industry.

The state budget situation this year is unlike any I have seen in almost a quarter-century of public service at the state level. The legislature will be considering a state budget at a time of a shortfall projected to reach \$500 million by July 2004. Spending cuts are being considered in areas such as education that previously were considered untouchable.

I couldn't agree more that Kentucky must continue to invest in a better public education system at all levels. Many other state services are vital to the well-being of our citizens and should be funded. But we also must maintain our commitment to the future of Kentucky agriculture.

Since 2000 half of Kentucky's share of master tobacco settlement funds has been dedicated to agriculture. This money is being used for diversification projects, livestock genetics, forage improvement, infrastructure, marketing, access to capital and many other purposes that will strengthen our agriculture industry for decades to come.

Some of these investments already are paying off. The Green River Cattle Company is using a grant to expand into cattle finishing, processing and direct marketing. The Purchase Area Aquaculture Cooperative got off the ground with grants from the Agricultural Development Board, which administers the master tobacco settlement money, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture; that grower-owned co-op now is selling processed catfish in four states, including most Kroger supermarkets in Kentucky and central Tennessee and some Kentucky state parks.

Our farmers must understand that there is no silver bullet that will erase the effects of the slumping economy and the loss of tobacco quota. But those of us charged with administering these funds are doing our best to give Kentucky farmers every opportunity to succeed.

Much more needs to be done, but with the tobacco settlement money, the Agricultural Development Board and the county councils, we have the resources and the process in place to make investments that will lift Kentucky to its rightful place as a leader in American agriculture - if we stay the course.

The 2003 session of the Kentucky General Assembly begins Jan. 7. I urge you to call the legislature's toll-free message line at 1-800-372-7181 and tell your representative and senator you want them to continue Kentucky's ground-breaking investment in the future of agriculture.





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## Short Rows

### Phase II checks go out Dec. 30

Phase II checks will be issued to tobacco quota owners, growers and tenants Dec. 30, the [Kentucky Tobacco Settlement Trust Corp.](#) has announced. The distribution will be the fourth of the 12 scheduled payments from the trust, which was established to compensate for income lost due to reduced tobacco consumption stemming from the master tobacco settlement.

Kentucky's tobacco farm families will share \$134,261,964.30 this year. Quota compensation is based on crop year 2001 basic quota. Land and labor compensation is based on an average of crop years 1998, 1999, and 2000 effective quota and actual marketings.

### Scott Hams wins national competition



Leslie and June Scott, owners of [Scott Hams](#) of Greenville, accept an award for grand champion in the smoked country ham division of the American Cured Meat Championships in September in Reno, Nevada.

### **Fruit and Vegetable Conference on tap**

The 2003 Fruit and Vegetable Conference is scheduled for Jan. 6-7 at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST both days.

Conference highlights include commercial fruit and vegetable production, tree fruit integrated pest management, cooperative marketing, greenhouses, farmers' markets, organic farming and gardening, and a grape and wine short course.

The Kentucky State Horticultural Society and the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association will hold their annual meetings during the conference. A pre-conference roundtable discussion on fruit production will be Jan. 5 from 8-10 p.m. The conference is co-sponsored by the [University of Kentucky College of Agriculture](#), [Kentucky State University](#) and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

For more information, contact UK horticulture specialist John Strang by phone at (859) 257-5685 or by e-mail at [jstrang@uky.edu](mailto:jstrang@uky.edu), or contact your local Extension office.

### **Winter lambing school Feb. 5**

The 15th annual University of Kentucky winter lambing school will provide new and veteran sheep producers a chance to learn essential skills to get them through the critical phases of late gestation, lambing and early lactation. The event will be Feb. 5 at the UK Animal Research Center in Woodford County.

Endre Fink and Winston Deweese of the UK Animal Research Center in Woodford County will provide applied management instruction and hands-on opportunities related to ewe care during late gestation through creep feeding of new lambs. UK Extension sheep specialist Monty Chappell will lead discussions with producers and answer important questions concerning lambing.

Registration is free. Anyone who plans to attend should send name, address and phone number to 2003 Lambing School, 911 W.P. Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215 by Feb. 3 or contact Chappell by phone at (859) 257-2716, or by e-mail at [mchappel@uky.edu](mailto:mchappel@uky.edu).

### **No-till among wheat conference topics**

A January wheat conference will examine no-till production, new varieties and other news affecting the industry.

Sponsored by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Wheat Science Group, the annual meeting will be Jan. 7 at the Christian County Extension office, 2850 Pembroke Road, Hopkinsville. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. CST with the program getting under way at 9 a.m.

Lloyd Murdock, UK Extension soils specialist, will moderate a farmer panel discussion on no-till wheat production. Murdock and John Grove, a UK agronomist, will share information from a study on corn yields in long-term no-till fields. Don Hershman, UK Extension plant pathologist, will present an update on no-till production and head scab.

Marvin Stone, an agriculture engineer from Oklahoma State University, will discuss variable rate nitrogen applications on wheat. Additional topics include new wheat varieties, seed quality, storing wheat and marketing.

Lunch will be provided by the [Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association](#). There will be three Certified Crop Advisor credit hours available, one each in nutrient management, pest management and crop management.

For more information, contact Jay Stone, Christian County Extension agent for agriculture and natural resources, at (270) 886-6328, or Dottie Call, Wheat Science Group coordinator, at (270) 365-7541, ext. 234.

## **Poultry course offered on interactive TV**

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture again will offer a poultry course via interactive television this spring.

The course introduces students to the principles of poultry biology and their applications to modern poultry production. Austin Cantor, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, is the primary instructor.

Poultry production has grown substantially in the past decade, and today poultry is ranked as the No. 1 food commodity produced in Kentucky. Cantor said the course is designed for animal science majors, non-majors interested in poultry, community college students and people working in agriculture production and Extension.

Locations for the Spring 2003 semester are yet to be determined. The course is tentatively scheduled from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. ET on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan. 16 through May 7. Interested students can check with their university to see if the course is offered, or contact UK Distance Learning at 1-800-828-0439 or (859) 257-3377. Information can also be found at the UK Distance Learning web site, [www.uky.edu/Distance](http://www.uky.edu/Distance).

Non-traditional students, such as those in the industry, can register through UK Distance Learning. Locations could be added if there is a request from the industry to provide them. For more information, contact Cantor at (859) 257-7531 or [acantor@uky.edu](mailto:acantor@uky.edu).



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## Kentucky dairy's future topic of summit

Kentucky dairy interests will gather to discuss the future of their industry Jan. 28-29 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville.

"The goal of the summit is to gain a better perspective of what the dairy industry is facing and how these issues should be addressed," said Eunice Schlappi, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's dairy marketing specialist, who is organizing the conference. "The summit will allow leaders of the dairy industry to come together as a group to voice their concerns. More importantly, it will provide the opportunity to try to determine what directives need to be taken to assure the future viability of the industry in the state."

Representatives from academia, processors, regulators, veterinarians, geneticists and others will join producers in the summit. Topics will include milk prices, regulations, bio-security, new dairies, value-added opportunities, heifer raising, new technology and management issues.

Sponsors include [Kentucky Farm Bureau](#), the Kentucky Milk Producers Association, the [University of Kentucky](#) and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

For more information, contact Eunice Schlappi by phone at (502) 564-3956, ext. 272, or by e-mail at [eunice.schlappi@kyagr.com](mailto:eunice.schlappi@kyagr.com).

Click [here](#) to go to KDA's Dairy Marketing page



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## Export financing tips offered to producers

Farmers and agri-businesses ready or even thinking about exporting are urged to attend the Export Financing for Agricultural Producers Conference Feb. 11 at Louisville's Executive Inn. The event is co-sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

The conference is designed to let producers know what types of assistance, primarily financial, are available for marketing products outside the United States. Individuals and businesses will be assisted in properly assessing the risks of exporting as well as how to minimize those risks. Producers may get information on insurance, banking assistance, and how to sell products successfully in the global marketplace.

"Many Kentucky agri-businesses and individual producers are beginning to market their products overseas," said Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, who will serve as host. "Our Department has [a very effective trade office that we operate in Mexico](#) with the Cabinet for Economic Development. In 2002, we made a [\\$7 million trade deal with Cuba](#) and hosted key Russian and Chinese agribusiness leaders.

"A growing number of people are discovering the tremendous dividends that international export markets offer. We are here to help our producers and agribusinesses take advantage of every new opportunity that may be available."

Mary Chambliss, acting administrator of the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service](#) and acting vice president of the [Commodity Credit Corporation](#), is tentatively scheduled as keynote speaker.

Programs offered during the day will look at international trade financing opportunities, diversified markets, and competitiveness in many areas.

Kentucky producers who have found success in selling their products beyond the borders of the U.S. also are scheduled to speak. Farmers and agri-business representatives will sit on a discussion panel to address issues specific to their operations.

There is no cost for Kentucky participants to attend. Out-of-state participants will be charged \$20 for the day. Lunch will be provided. The conference will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. The conference agenda is available [on the Department Web site](#).

Registration deadline is Feb. 7.

For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Crawford of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Division of International Marketing by phone at (502) 564-4696 or by e-mail at



[jennifer.crawford@kyagr.com](mailto:jennifer.crawford@kyagr.com).



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## Old, new on display at farm show

Traditional agricultural implements and high-tech devices will be exhibited side-by-side at the [38th National Farm Machinery Show](#) Feb. 12-15 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville.

Among the tractors and tools of tradition will be computer software programs of every description, each designed specifically for farming needs. One allows a cattleman to keep track of every animal under his ownership, along with details on its health, productivity and profit potential. Another lets a farmer plant and harvest following maps derived from satellites orbiting thousands of miles above the Earth. Others offer everything from forecast programs for charting market trends to weather projection databases.

Nearly 800 exhibits will be featured in America's largest indoor farm show.

Equipment, services and other items to be found at the show include breeder services; chemicals and fertilizers; dairy equipment; feed and nutritional supplies; grain hauling and storage equipment; irrigation equipment; computers and electronics; tractors and combines; mowing and harvesting equipment; seeds; shop machinery and tools; trucks and trailers; and more.

Exhibit hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST daily.

Visitors also may attend free seminars on a variety of topics in the South Wing Conference Center. The seminars are sponsored by [Farm Journal](#). The Family Living Center will offer gifts, farm toys, cosmetics, souvenirs, jewelry, collectibles, arts, crafts and many other items.

Admission to the show is free. Parking at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center is \$4.

The [35th Championship Tractor Pull](#) at Freedom Hall will offer \$200,000 in prize money. Sponsored by [Syngenta](#), the event is slated for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12-14 and 1 and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15.





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## State hosts national aquaculture conference

The country's only national aquaculture conference will take place in Kentucky Feb. 18-21. For the first time, the Bluegrass state will host Aquaculture America, an event that combines the annual meetings of the [U.S. Aquaculture Society](#), the [National Aquaculture Association](#) and the [U.S. Suppliers Association](#).

The Kentucky Aquaculture Association is hosting the event at the [Kentucky International Convention Center](#) in Louisville. [Kentucky State University](#) and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) will aid the association.

"Aquaculture as a practice is fairly new to Kentucky and has enormous potential for growth," said Angela Caporelli, aquaculture specialist for KDA's [Division of Value-Added Horticulture and Aquaculture](#). "It also presents farmers with a new way to make money in their operations."

The theme for the national convention is "New Frontiers in Aquaculture." The conference will feature programs with technical sessions and producer seminars covering virtually all species. The trade show Feb. 19-21 promises over 200 booths of aquaculture equipment and supplies.

Caporelli has worked with Kentucky's young shrimp farming industry during two fall harvests. In Kentucky, production ponds are stocked in late May to early June with harvest in September through early October.

In western Kentucky, many former tobacco farmers have taken the plunge into catfish farming and formed the [Purchase Area Aquaculture Cooperative](#). The co-op recently received a boost from [Kroger](#), which now is selling farm-fresh PAAC catfish in stores in the central and eastern parts of the state as well as central Tennessee. KDA marketing specialists brought representatives of the cooperative and the country's largest supermarket chain together to work out details.

Caporelli will speak on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) at the conference. Under the HACCP system, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) works to identify and prevent hazards that could cause foodborne illnesses rather than relying on spot-checks of manufacturing processes of finished seafood products.

For more information on aquaculture opportunities in Kentucky, contact Caporelli by phone at (502) 564-0290 or by e-mail at [angela.caporelli@kyagr.com](mailto:angela.caporelli@kyagr.com).





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## Conference focuses on agricultural marketing

Growers and other agriculture stakeholders from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky can gather important marketing tips in a conference Feb. 25-26 at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville, Ind.

The first Ohio River Valley Farm Marketing Conference will bring together representatives of government, retailers, universities, Extension, cooperatives and businesses to lead breakout sessions on horticulture, livestock and agri-tourism. At press time, presenters from Kentucky included Cynthia Bohn, owner of [Equus Run Vineyards](#) in Midway; Scott County Extension agent Mark Reese; Tim Woods and Rick Bates from the [University of Kentucky](#); Laura Robinson of R Farm in Maysville; Joe Cecil of the [West Kentucky Growers Cooperative](#) in Owensboro; and Kelly Ludwig of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's [Division of International Marketing](#).

Scheduled speakers for the luncheon and government roundtable Feb. 25 are Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith and Joe Pearson, Indiana assistant commissioner of agriculture.

The conference is targeted to growers, agricultural entrepreneurs, agricultural educators, community leaders, local government officials and other agricultural stakeholders. Activities on Feb. 25 will begin at 11 a.m. EST with a welcome and lunch, and conclude with dinner and the keynote speaker. On Feb. 26, a breakfast speaker will start the day at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakout sessions, the concluding speaker and a wrap-up at 12 noon.

Registration is \$15 through Feb. 14 and \$20 after that date. Registration includes three meals and all conference activities and presentations. Make check payable to Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D and mail with registration form to Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, Attn. Farm Marketing Conference, P.O. Box 407, Versailles, IN 47042. Space is limited, and some 300 participants are expected.

For questions regarding registration, call (812) 689-6410, ext. 5. For other questions, contact Matt Weber by phone at 1-800-816-0019, or by e-mail at [mdweber@sdg.us](mailto:mdweber@sdg.us), or log onto [www.sirdp.us](http://www.sirdp.us).

The conference is sponsored by [USDA Rural Development](#), [Indiana Farm Bureau](#), [Hoosier Energy](#), [Kentucky Farm Bureau](#), the [Commodity Growers Cooperative](#), [Heifer International](#), the Kentucky Farmers Union, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.





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## Women in Ag meeting set

The [Kentucky Women in Agriculture](#) organization will host its fourth statewide conference Feb. 27-28 at Lexington's Embassy Suites Hotel. Organizers say the event is shaping up to be one of the most unique and informing conferences the group has put together.

The planning committee for the event is setting up a forum for candidates for Kentucky agriculture commissioner, said Kim Henken, Extension associate for environmental/natural resource issues at the [University of Kentucky College of Agriculture](#). U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman has been invited to speak, Henken said.

Conference planners are looking forward to providing information about marketing, the 2002 Farm Bill, business plans and even topics that venture outside the farmgate.

Teams from the 2001 Taproots Leadership conference are invited to share success stories about their team projects. Women will also have an opportunity to sit in small groups for roundtable discussions addressing topics such as direct marketing of specialty beef, grapes and wine, mushrooms, bees and honey, pawpaws, farm festivals and more.

Kentucky Women in Agriculture sent a group to Cuba last May to set the stage for [Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith's visit](#) the following September. Commissioner Smith and Pedro Alvarez, head of Cuba's food import agency, reached an agreement in which Cuba will buy \$7 million worth of processed foods, meats, tobacco and tobacco products, wood products and other items from Kentucky producers.

Other women's groups have held a stone-fencing workshop and sought ways for food banks to purchase Kentucky agricultural products.

The group's Web site will continually be updating conference information. Registration is underway and will be limited to the first 300 participants to sign up. For more information, check the Web site at <http://www.kywomeninag.com> or contact Kim Henken at (859) 257-5482 or Alice Baesler at (502) 564-4696.





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## Food companies go to Market

Some 38 Kentucky food producers will participate in the "Kentucky Proud" Food Products Marketplace during [Kentucky Crafted: The Market](#) on Feb. 27-March 2 in the South Wing of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville.

The event will celebrate its 21st anniversary and is the longest-running state-sponsored wholesale/retail craft show in the nation. For the ninth year, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's [Division of Market Research](#) will sponsor booths for the food displays.

"KDA sponsors booths for Kentucky food companies to help them sell their products and reach a consumer base that might otherwise go untouched," said Elizabeth Smith, Marketplace coordinator for the Department. "We are glad to see an increasing number of companies participating in the food products event."

Food companies from across the Commonwealth will exhibit their wares at the show. Food products this year will include barbecue sauces, cheese, honey, popcorn, jams and jellies, country ham, bison, herb vinaigrettes, salsas, bourbon candies, and more.

Hours this year are: Thursday, Feb. 27, 4-8 p.m. EST (wholesale); Friday, Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (wholesale); Saturday, March 1, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (retail to general public); Sunday, March 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (retail to general public).

Along with the "Kentucky Proud" Marketplace, the show features the Kentucky Craft section; Kentucky music and book publishers; and two-dimensional art. Approximately 300 Kentucky companies will be featured at the Market.

For more information on the "Kentucky Proud" Marketplace and other food shows, contact Smith by phone at (502) 564-6571 or by e-mail at [elizabeth.smith@kyagr.com](mailto:elizabeth.smith@kyagr.com).



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## Pen heifer show, bull aisle back for Kentucky Beef Expo

Cattle buyers will have a tough act to follow after [a record-setting 2002 Kentucky Beef Expo](#), but about 15,000 are expected to give it a try at [the 17th edition of the annual beef cattle show and sale](#) Feb. 28-March 2 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

Gross sales exceeded \$858,000 at last year's event, a 24 percent increase from the previous year. In addition to the sales, producers will compete for \$104,000 in premiums at this year's show. Some 700 entries are expected. The Expo also will offer a bull display aisle, a cattle judging contest, and junior events.

Shows and sales are scheduled for 13 breeds as well as the fifth annual Pen Heifer Show and Sale, which will offer \$8,000 in premiums and awards for lots of two or three head ages 12 to 30 months.

Shows for Angus, Beefalo, Maine-Anjou, Red Angus, Red Poll, Polled Hereford and Simmental, and the Pen Heifer Show, will be Feb. 28. Shorthorns, Salers, Limousin, Charolais and Chiangus will be shown March 1. Red Angus and Maine-Anjou will be sold Feb. 28; the remaining breed sales and the Pen Heifer Sale will be March 1.

The bull display aisle will be brought back for the second straight year. Display hours will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m. EST Feb. 27-March 1 and March 2 from 8 a.m. until completion of the junior heifer and steer shows.

The 5th Annual Kentucky Beef Expo Cattle Judging Contest will be March 1. The competition is open to all 4-H and FFA members. Registration in Newmarket Hall will open at 7 a.m., and the contest will begin at 8. Competition will be held in six cattle classes, and contestants will be divided into a junior division for 4-H competitors under 14 as of Jan. 1 and a senior division for 4-H participants 14 and over and all FFA competitors. Participants may compete as individuals or in teams of three or four.

The Kentucky Beef Expo is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Two junior shows, a jackpot heifer show and a jackpot steer and market heifer show, are scheduled for March 2 at 8 a.m. The junior shows are open to 4-H and FFA members who have not passed their 21st birthday on Jan. 1. About \$8,000 in premiums will be up for grabs, and 500 exhibits are expected for the shows. Major sponsors of the junior shows include [Merial](#), [Nutrena](#), [Fort Dodge](#), [Farm Credit](#) and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

For more information on the 2003 Kentucky Beef Expo, contact John McDonald of the [Division of Show and Fair Promotion](#) by telephone at (502) 564-4983 or by e-mail at



[john.mcdonald@kyagr.com](mailto:john.mcdonald@kyagr.com).



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Date(s)	Time	Name of Event	Location & Contact
1/6/2004	12:00:00 PM	Governor's Commission on Family Farms Mtg	Lexington, KY Holiday Inn North, Claiborne Room Edith Fultz (502) 564-4627
1/14/2004		Tobacco Expo	Lexington, KY Heritage Hall
1/15/2004	7:00:00 AM	Kentucky Biodiesel Showcase	Frankfort, KY Capital Plaza Holiday Inn Melissa Howell (502) 452-9152
1/22/2004	1:00:00 PM	Kentucky State Fair Board Meeting	Louisville, KY KFEC Harold Workman (502) 367-5000
1/28/2004		Ag Expo 2004	Owensboro, KY Executive Inn Annette Heisdorffer (270) 685-8480
2/10/2004 - 2/11/2004		Kentucky Rural Water Association 2004 Management Conference	Bowling Green, KY Sloan Convention Center
2/11/2004 - 2/14/2004		39th National Farm Machinery Show	Louisville, KY KFEC (502) 367-5004
2/19/2004 - 2/20/2004		Agricultural Outlook Forum 2004	Arlington, VA Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
2/20/2004 - 2/24/2004		NASDA Midyear Legislative Conference	Washington, DC Renaissance Washington Hotel
2/26/2004		Kentucky State Fair Board Meeting	Louisville, KY KFEC Harold Workman (502) 367-5000
2/26/2004		24th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference	Cave City, KY Garry Lacefield (270) 365-7541



<b>3/10/2004 - 3/13/2004</b>	Tri-National Agricultural Accord	Puerto Vallarta in State of Jalisco
<b>3/25/2004</b>	Kentucky State Fair Board Meeting	Louisville, KY KFEC Harold Workman (502) 367-5000
<b>4/22/2004</b>	Kentucky State Fair Board Meeting	Louisville, KY KFEC Harold Workman (502) 367-5000
<b>5/27/2004</b>	Kentucky State Fair Board Meeting	Louisville, KY KFEC Harold Workman (502) 367-5000

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## Auctions survive--for how long?

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Buyers look over bales of tobacco at Big Burley No. 2 warehouse in Lexington on opening day of the tobacco auction season Nov. 18. As of Dec. 13, more than 48 million pounds of burley had been sold at auction throughout the Burley Belt for an average of \$196.38 per hundredweight. Another 14.9 million pounds, or 31 percent of the burley that was taken to



auction, went to the surplus pool. About 75 percent of Kentucky's 2002 burley crop is being sold directly to cigarette manufacturers under contract, up from two-thirds of the 2001 crop.

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## Every farm counts in Agriculture Census

Farm operators in Kentucky and across America are participating in the [2002 Census of Agriculture](#), the nation's largest, most detailed statistical portrait of U.S. agriculture.

Census forms were mailed to U.S. farm and ranch operators in December. Completed report forms are due by Feb. 3.

Conducted by USDA's [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#), the census will provide a comprehensive portrait of agriculture at the county and national levels. The Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service office in Louisville will coordinate agricultural census activities for the Commonwealth.


"Many changes have occurred throughout Kentucky agriculture in the five years since the last Census of Agriculture was taken," said Leland Brown, Kentucky state statistician. "The need for reliable statistics about Kentucky's farmers has never been greater. Conducting the agricultural census is the only way to get information to measure how successful many of the new state initiatives and marketing assistance programs have been. That will happen when producers take the time to complete the 2002 Census of Agriculture report form and return it in the mail."

According to Brown, the Agricultural Census shows a geographic picture of American and Kentucky agriculture: the changing crop and livestock patterns in agriculture, economic conditions and operating costs of farm operators, and the sources of marketing and income. New questions added this year will collect information on multiple operators per farm, production contracts, certified organic acreage, grain storage capacity, computer and Internet use, and new commodities such as bison, deer, elk, llamas, emus, and ostriches.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture will compile a count of farms by different categories: size, type, operator characteristics, and value of sales. This count is made for each county in Kentucky. Many of the Extension programs administered in Kentucky receive funds for these projects based on the Ag Census farm counts by county.

Agriculture census data serve as a foundation for agricultural statistics. They are widely used by farm organizations, legislators, and those who provide goods and services to farmers and ranchers. The census report form is detailed, but all information on individual farm operations is kept confidential by law. Statistical results are aggregated and published only in geographical summaries to prevent identification of individual farms.

A farm, for census purposes, is any place from which at least \$1,000 worth of agricultural products were produced and sold or could have been sold during the census year. Because a key strength of the census is providing detailed facts about small farms, every response counts—whether from a large or very small operation.



"By responding completely and accurately, Kentucky farmers can make the 2002 Census of Agriculture an effective tool to help chart the future of the Commonwealth's top industry," Brown said. "Remember that it is not a Census of Agriculture, but a Census for Agriculture, because America and Kentucky count on agriculture."

Producers who do not receive a 2002 Census of Agriculture report form by January 2003 can call 1-888-4AG-STAT to ensure they are counted in the census.

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## Russians talk trade in Kentucky



A delegation of Russian horse and cattle breeders, government officials and a racetrack director visited the Bluegrass in October on a reverse trade mission to meet Kentucky agriculture leaders. Above: Boris D. Antontsev, deputy chief for animal husbandry of the All Russia Ministry of Agriculture, admires thoroughbred stallion Kingmambo at Lane's End Farm near Midway. At right is Alexander M. Timchenko, general director of the All Russia Horse Breeders Association. Below: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, right, discusses trade in Midway with, from left, Timchenko, Antontsev, and translator Mikhail Myskin. The Russians visited horse and cattle farms and toured a veterinary clinic and university research facilities. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the [U.S. Commerce Department](#) sponsored the trip in cooperation with [U.S. Livestock Genetic Export Inc.](#)





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## Students raise miniature barn, ag awareness

### Lesson taught at KDA academy

By Byron Brewer, *Kentucky Agricultural News*

Connie Crask would never have thought to use the raising of a miniature 1860s barn to teach social studies and history. Julie Wise certainly would have had a different writing assignment demonstrating community and unity than the building of a barn.



Justin Armstrong helps Jenna Hoskins, a fifth-grader at Turner Elementary School in Lawrenceburg, join two beams on a miniature barn. Armstrong, education director for the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage, developed the structure as a learning tool.

The fifth-grade teachers from Lawrenceburg's new Turner Elementary School were part of a weeklong workshop the Kentucky Department of Agriculture conducted in June at the [Kentucky History Center](#) that focused on integrating agriculture into the classroom. They put their lessons from the summer academy to work in October when the replica barn was raised at their school.

"People traditionally have learned many things on the farm as families worked together, but that has changed," said Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith. "A simple barn raising can instruct our young people in subjects as different as composition and mathematics, science and history. After all, it takes a lot of people, each doing his or her own job, working together, to raise

those timbers to the sky."

"The Department's involvement with the academy came out of a real need for educational materials covering studies of Kentucky," said Rayetta Boone, director of KDA's [Division of Agriculture and Environmental Education](#). The division funded the summer academy through a \$45,000 grant from the state [Department of Education](#). "Agriculture is the foundation of Kentucky and of the United States, and it can be utilized as a teaching tool to show us where we have been and where we are going."

Justin Armstrong, education director for the Center of Agricultural Science and Heritage in Indianapolis, supplied the one-quarter scale 1860s English-style barn replica. The non-profit center's mission of "focusing on the future with respect for the past" has allowed Armstrong to take the barn - 7 feet tall, 8 feet long and 6 feet wide - as well as other agriculture-oriented teaching examples across the region.

"When we teachers were raising Justin's miniature barn this summer, there was a lot of excitement that we had materials that covered Kentucky in such a thorough manner," Wise said. "But as I was watching the kids work together, using their social skills, math, simple machines, it all clicked. What a wonderful idea to tie it all together with agriculture!"

Crask, a 26-year teaching veteran, said using a barn raising and other agricultural practices as teaching tools would not have occurred to her before taking part in the academy.

"This year, I was coming to this new school (Turner) and was concerned about teaching American history," Crask said. "I had no tying-together aspect for the lessons. Then I attended the academy - a walk into heaven! Using agriculture, you can teach economics and history from pre-Columbus times to the present. For example, one Native American group had corn, one had skins and there is your trade aspect. One had skins, the other had salmon ... again, trade."

"Each Kentucky school has goals it must reach, subjects it must try harder to instruct," said Carrie Stenger, who attended the barn raising at Turner Elementary and also coordinated the June academy for KDA. "We wanted to demonstrate with our academy that agriculture is not a separate subject to be taught in vocational education. It can be integrated into all curriculums as a real-life, meaningful instructional tool."

"It looks like the students of Turner Elementary and other students of the teachers who came to the academy are the real beneficiaries, as it was intended."

For more on KDA's classroom programs, contact Boone by phone at (502) 564-4696 or by e-mail at [rayetta.boone@kyagr.com](mailto:rayetta.boone@kyagr.com).

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## Spencer teacher earns honor

A Spencer County elementary teacher who uses agriculture as a teaching tool in her classroom has been honored by the [Milken Family Foundation](#).

Ruth Ann Sweazy received a \$25,000 check from the foundation. She is one of two teachers in Kentucky, and one of only 100 teachers nationwide, to receive the award.

Sweazy is a past participant in Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom (KAEC), a program coordinated by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's [Division of Agriculture and Environmental Education](#). She has coordinated numerous Ag Days at Spencer County Elementary.

In January 2001, she was a co-researcher and writer of a book about the diversity of rural life and how that diversity affects a child's education. The book was derived from a four-year study.

A 10-year teaching veteran, Sweazy received her bachelor's and master's degrees at the [University of Louisville](#). She holds national certification in teaching from the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#).



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## 'Kentucky Fresh' subject of poster, essay contest

By Roger Snell, *Kentucky Agricultural News*

Kentucky students in grades 1 through 8 are invited to compete in Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith's annual [Kentucky Ag Day Poster and Essay Contest](#). This year's contest will focus on the [Kentucky Fresh](#) campaign to market homegrown farm products.

Entries must be in Kentucky Department of Agriculture offices or postmarked no later than Feb. 28. Winners will be notified by March 7 and will be honored at the Kentucky Ag Day Luncheon on March 20. Winners in each contest at each grade level will receive a \$100 savings bond. One entry in each contest will be selected as the Commissioner's Choice, and those winners each will receive an additional \$50 savings bond.

"The contest serves many purposes," Smith said. "The contest coincides with Agriculture Day in Kentucky and National Agriculture Week. We get teachers and students focused on the value of our farmers and products. And we get to recognize some creative talent out there."

The work of previous contest winners has been featured on department posters, calendars and other publications.

The theme, "Taste Kentucky Fresh - Nothing Else is Close," follows a successful marketing campaign that Commissioner Smith launched last summer. Students are asked to emphasize the variety of Kentucky-grown products and the importance of supporting agriculture close to home.

Entries must be created completely by the student. Teachers should submit the two best entries in their class to the contest. Students may enter both the poster and essay contests.

Posters should be made on 12X18-inch white paper, mounted and framed with poster board or mat board. Color felt markers work well; contestants may not use crayons or colored pencils. Entries will not be accepted if they are folded or rolled up.

Essays must be up to 150 words for students in grades 1-3 and 250 words for students in grades 4-8.

The Poster and Essay Contest is just one service that the Department's [Division of Agriculture and Environmental Education](#) brings to classrooms throughout the Commonwealth. Rayetta Boone, Carrie Stenger, and Johnny Parrish have instructed over 1,700 teachers in workshops promoting awareness about Kentucky agriculture and the environment over the past several years.

"It's as basic as helping teachers show students connections about where their food comes from," Boone said. "We try to help teachers pass on to their students the basic understanding that it takes farms to grow food and this is why farms are important. That is an amazing concept for a student to learn."

"Agriculture isn't a separate subject only taught in vocational education classes," Stenger said. "It can be integrated into all curricula as a real-life, meaningful instructional tool."

Teachers are encouraged to involve their entire class in the competition. Complete contest details are available by contacting Boone or Stenger by phone at (502) 564-4696, by e-mail at [rayetta.boone@kyagr.com](mailto:rayetta.boone@kyagr.com) or [carrie.stenger@kyagr.com](mailto:carrie.stenger@kyagr.com) or by logging on to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Web site at [www.kyagr.com/enviro\\_out/education/programs/postercontest/Guidelines.htm](http://www.kyagr.com/enviro_out/education/programs/postercontest/Guidelines.htm).



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## Smith, other Kentuckians honored at 75th FFA Convention

**Record number of delegates attend**

**By Ted Sloan, *Kentucky Agricultural News***

Kentuckians took home 89 American FFA Degrees during the [75th National FFA Convention](#) Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in Louisville.

The convention brought a record 51,025 delegates to the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. University of Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino was the keynote speaker, and former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali made a surprise appearance.



University of Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino addresses the National FFA Convention in Freedom Hall in October.

Two Kentucky chapters earned team gold medals at the convention. The Spencer County chapter won a gold in farm business management, and Oldham County struck gold in nursery and landscape.

Individual gold medals for Kentucky delegates went to Alan Masterson, Central Hardin,

agricultural mechanics; Josh McCubbins, Nelson County, agricultural sales; John Snider and Drew Stinnett, Spencer County, dairy cattle evaluation; Sarah Eisenbeck, Daniel Jordan, Todd Bivens and Casey Gardner, Spencer County, farm business management; Charlee Doom, Larue County, job interview; and Ryan Hamilton and David Koenig, Oldham County, nursery and landscape.

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith was one of 151 recipients of the Honorary American FFA Degree, the organization's highest honor.

Pitino, speaking in his home arena of Freedom Hall, urged the delegates to set demanding goals, don't believe negative remarks, listen to what others have to say, and be "ferociously persistent."

"If your self-esteem is high, you're capable of accomplishing extraordinary things," Pitino said.

Karlene Lindow of the Marshfield FFA chapter in Wisconsin was named the first female to receive an American Star Farmer award.

National FFA officers for 2002-2003 who were elected in the final session are Tim Hammerich, California, president; Seth Heinert, Wyoming, secretary; J.J. Jones, Kansas, Central Region vice president; Julie Tyson, Ohio, Eastern Region vice president; Dustin Clark, Texas, western region vice president; and Joel McKie, Georgia, Southern Region vice president.

The National FFA Convention first came to Louisville in 1999 and will remain there through 2005. It annually brings some \$20 million to the Louisville metropolitan area.

FFA is a national youth organization of 461,043 student members in 7,308 local chapters. FFA strives to develop its members' potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. More information is available at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).



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## City team's victory was a Locke



Deb Locke celebrates after roping the golden steer in the Wing Tip Rodeo during the Farm-City Luncheon Nov. 15 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. Locke's City team defeated the Farm team for the second time in three years. A Taste of Kentucky was honored as the Greater Louisville Agribusiness of the Year for 2002.



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## 513 equine, 75 humans contract West Nile in '02

By Ted Sloan, *Kentucky Agricultural News*

The snow and subsequent freezing conditions of early December brought the threat of West Nile Virus in Kentucky to an end for 2002, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's equine programs manager reported.

A total of 513 equine were confirmed with West Nile Virus in Kentucky in 2002, Rusty Ford said. Of that total, 382 were living at press time, 102 were euthanized and 29 died.

"West Nile Virus had a significant impact on one of Kentucky's signature industries," Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith said. "It could have been much worse. Dry conditions through most of the state this summer kept the mosquito population down. The Department sprayed for mosquitoes on request of county officials and advised private property owners about eliminating mosquito breeding grounds."


Cases were confirmed in 78 of Kentucky's 120 counties. Fayette County reported the most cases, 38, and Nelson and Barren counties had 35 each. The mountain counties of eastern Kentucky generally were not affected.

Seventeen of the 513 equine confirmed with West Nile were fully vaccinated according to the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations, Ford said. More than 175,000 doses of West Nile vaccine were approved for use in Kentucky as of Dec. 4.

The virus afflicted equine of 29 different breeds. It was reported in 135 quarter horses, 117 Tennessee Walking Horses, 50 thoroughbreds and 45 pleasure horses.

The [Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services](#) reported 75 cases of West Nile in humans in 2002 as of early December. Five of the victims died. Jefferson County reported 25 human cases; no other county had more than five.

West Nile Virus (WNV) causes encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain, in horses, humans and birds and other warm-blooded animals. It is transmitted by mosquitoes that acquire it from infected birds. Humans and equine cannot transmit the disease. It was first discovered in the United States in 1999 in New York and reached Kentucky in 2001, when eight equine cases were confirmed in the state.



Click [here](#) for more information on West Nile Virus



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## Brother's death brings home dangers of agriculture

John Eric Williams was a popular figure in Bourbon County and a devoted family man who lived with and cared for his 96-year-old grandmother. He raised tobacco and cattle, worked part-time at Paris Stockyards, and built firehouses for the county.

He was killed in August at the stockyards when a bull charged a gate and flipped him over it.

"He had been around cattle and farm equipment all his life," said Mr. Williams' sister, Sissy Faulkner of Cynthiana. She talked about her brother's death to remind others that even experienced farmers can confront danger on the job - and that a death or injury impacts the lives of many other people.

The loss of Mr. Williams touched many people in Bourbon County, Faulkner said. She said he attended all of her children's events, and "my grandchildren might as well have been his" because he spent so much time with them. His funeral was one of the largest Bourbon County had ever seen, with people standing in line for hours to pay tribute, Faulkner said.


"My brother was not wealthy as far as money, but I believe he died the wealthiest man on Earth," she said.

Faulkner felt the loss especially hard. Brother and sister were close, and graduated together from Bryan Station High School in Lexington.

"I feel like my right arm has been cut off," she said.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's [Farm and Home Safety Program](#) provides these safety tips for working with livestock:

- o Respect all animals; they can hurt you without intending to do so.
- o Never try to separate animals that are fighting.
- o Animals respond well to routine. Be calm and deliberate.
- o Always leave an escape route when working in close quarters. A people gate is essential.
- o Take extra care around breeding males and mother animals with young.
- o Always make your presence known to an animal before touching it.



o Keep small children away from livestock, and make sure older children know how to act around livestock.

To schedule a farm and home safety program, or to obtain a copy of the Farm and Home Safety Plan booklet, contact the KDA's Division of Public Relations and Communications at (502) 564-4696.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of the Farm and Home Safety Plan



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## Equine interests discuss future

By Roger Snell, *Kentucky Agricultural News*

Leaders of Kentucky's equine industry met with Commissioner Billy Ray Smith on Nov. 18 to discuss how to maintain their industry as one of the leading components of Kentucky agriculture and a significant contributor to tourism.

The delegates to the meeting at the Kentucky Horse Park found common ground on promoting the industry and making the public aware of how essential horses are to Kentucky's economy.

As a result of the meeting and stemming from suggestions of the group, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture launched a [new equine Web page](#) off the KDA's home page at [www.kyagr.com](http://www.kyagr.com).

"The new Web page contains links to equine Web sites and articles about the impact of the industry in Kentucky," Commissioner Smith said. "The equine Web page is intended to show Kentuckians how much the industry contributes to the state's economy. It also has information on equine recreational opportunities, right down to such details as locations of horse trails and camps in the Commonwealth."

Several attending the meeting said that the financial impact goes beyond the obvious of racing and breeding, and includes feed, supplies, trainers, employees, tourists, pleasure riders and people attending shows who don't even own a horse.

One association leader at the meeting noted that there are 33,000 quarter horses in the Commonwealth and more than 100 shows a year drawing people from all over.

Commissioner Smith called for the meeting with equine leaders to inform them of the department's marketing and promotion efforts. He spoke of KDA's efforts in international trade, including [a reverse trade mission by a Russian delegation](#) that visited Kentucky horse farms.

The group plans to continue meeting to discuss future promotions and other opportunities as well as concerns about animal health, access to affordable vaccines, and other key economic issues.

To suggest additional links for the equine Web page or to find out more about future equine meetings, e-mail [roger.snell@kyagr.com](mailto:roger.snell@kyagr.com) or call (502) 564-6676, ext. 254.





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## Produce sales to schools through KDA up 69 percent

By Byron Brewer, *Kentucky Agricultural News*

A Kentucky Department of Agriculture program that helps farmers sell fresh produce directly to schools is enjoying increased popularity.

"Our [Farm-to-School program](#) has become very successful as the number of growers and participating schools increases," said Jessica Anderson, Farm-to-School program coordinator with KDA's Division of Value-Added Horticulture and Aquaculture.

"Farmers gain by increased sales and another opportunity to make a living on the farm. The children benefit by improved nutrition when they're served healthy, Kentucky-grown foods."



Martha Dysart, left, of Wilkerson Elementary in Louisville accepts a first-place certificate in the fall decor contest from Farm-to-School Coordinator Jessica Anderson.

Sales of produce from farms to schools increased by 69 percent in 2002, she said. Now in its third year, Farm-to-School this past fall provided Kentucky schools with seedless watermelons, white potatoes, red cabbage, green cabbage and broccoli.

The fall décor kits also are growing in popularity, Anderson said. Each kit contains four or five gourds, a pie pumpkin, a mini-pumpkin and Indian corn.

"This year, the Department organized a contest among schools that ordered the kits," Anderson said. "School cafeterias were challenged to be creative. All cafeterias had to use the kit materials to decorate for autumn, but they were also allowed to use other materials."

Schools were asked to send a written description and pictures of their displays. Sixty-eight school systems ordered kits, and 39 entered the contest. KDA marketing staff judged all entries.

Wilkerson Elementary School in Jefferson County won first place and \$300. Breathitt County High School took second place and \$200. The winners were announced Nov. 21 at the Kentucky Food Administrators' Conference in Louisville.

Anderson works closely with participating producers, making sure that produce will come fresh from the field to the cafeteria table during the August-to-November run of the program.

Commodities are selected and advertised to all public school systems in cooperation with the Department's Division of Food Distribution. Contracted producers fill orders from schools.

For more information on the Farm-to-School program, contact Anderson by phone at (502) 564-7274 or by e-mail at [jessicap.anderson@kyagr.com](mailto:jessicap.anderson@kyagr.com).



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## KFB honors Commissioner



Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, second from left, receives [Kentucky Farm Bureau's](#) Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award Dec. 13 in Louisville during KFB's annual convention. Commissioner Smith is joined by his wife, Sandra. Presenting the award are David Beck, left, executive vice president of Kentucky Farm Bureau, and KFB President Sam Moore, who was re-elected to his fifth term.



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## \$1,000 in prizes offered in KDA photo contest

You could win up to \$500 if you have a photo showing the best of Kentucky farm life. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has sent out a call for entries for a [photo contest](#) that is scheduled to culminate with announcement of winners at next year's Kentucky State Fair.

"We're constantly in search of quality photos for use in Department publications ranging from ads to promote the state fair to the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics cover to brochures about [Kentucky Fresh](#) produce," Commissioner Billy Ray Smith said. "We ask everyone to submit your best photos and help us show why Kentucky is such a great place to live, farm, and raise families."

Commissioner Smith plans to announce the winners at the Commodity Breakfast that will kick off the 2003 Kentucky State Fair. A \$500 award will be given for first prize with \$300 for second and \$200 for third.

All entries should be of Kentucky agricultural subjects. All photos must relate to the quality of Kentucky farm life or products, such as fields of pumpkins or sunflowers, livestock, Kentucky Fresh produce, horses, tractors, barns and people. Other criteria include artistic quality and reproduction possibilities of the image.

Entries must include contact information regarding the photographer, relevant details about the subject and where the photo was taken. They may be submitted via e-mail as digital images or as photographs through regular mail; slides will not be accepted. Entries must be in possession of KDA by no later than May 31, 2003.

All photos become the property of KDA, meaning they can be used on the Web, in future publications, in advertising, or generally available for use by the public. Entrants should send only photos where subjects permit use of their image or property in future KDA publications or on the Web. Participants may enter as many photos as they like. Photos will not be returned; entrants should not send their only copy of a photo.

To enter, e-mail digital images to [roger.snell@kyagr.com](mailto:roger.snell@kyagr.com) or mail photos to Roger Snell, Photo Contest, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 500 Mero St., 7th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.

